

ONE Community

Summer 2012 Newsletter

PROJECT SEARCH TO OFFER JOB SKILL DEVELOPMENT

The [Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#), University of Arizona (Sonoran UCEDD), has partnered with the Council in developing a new job program in Maricopa County. Using the [Project SEARCH model](#) developed in 1996, the program is a business led venture that includes organizations that provide training sites for persons with developmental disabilities. The model focuses on students preparing to graduate or recent graduates from high school.



To offer an experience in multiple job rotations, organizations involved with Project SEARCH are larger businesses with a number of different departments. Hospitals or manufacturing environments tend to be the common job sites involved, leveraging their capacity to offer an opportunity for students to explore their interests and identify individual strengths.

Thanks to the interest of [Medtronic, Inc.](#) in developing job skills of persons with developmental disabilities, the Medtronic Center in Tempe, Arizona, will soon be offering job training at their site. The Tempe facility manufactures innovative and advanced electromedical equipment with a wide range of applications in healthcare. Participants will work in up to 6 different areas at the site, and will couple work experience with classroom training directed toward development of work skills ranging from how to work with others to time management, enhancing readiness for seeking employment after graduating from Project SEARCH.

Students in the program will spend 9–10 months in their unpaid rotations and upon completion will have a background of work experience that will substantially benefit their chances of successfully finding employment.

ONE Community Working Together

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SPOTLIGHT ON STAFF

Student Intern



Over the last 6 months, the Council has been pleased

to host a student intern from the [Interns in Action Program](#), based within the Arizona Department of Administration. Kelley Conley is a recent graduate of Arizona State University, receiving a Bachelor of Arts in Psychology and Women and Gender Studies. While studying as an undergraduate, Kelley also was a student in Barrett, [The Honors College](#), at Arizona State University. Barrett functions as a selective residential college that recruits academically outstanding undergraduates from across the nation.

In addition to participating as a Community Assistant and working in varied areas of research, Kelley dedicated 10–20 hours per week to the Council, researching, updating and

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COUNCIL HOSTS AGING CONFERENCE

Experts in aging from the Midwest and East Coast had an opportunity to sample Arizona's warm weather during the May 17th "[Aging, Dementia, and Developmental Disabilities](#)" educational workshop hosted by the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council.

Planned as a prelude to the annual [American Academy on Developmental Medicine and Dentistry](#) meeting being held in Phoenix, the workshop focused on providing updated information pertaining to dementia as it affects persons with developmental disabilities as they age. Early onset dementia is recognized as a serious problem among certain types of developmental disabilities and has been studied in-depth by the [National Task Group on Intellectual Disabilities and Dementia Practices](#).



Their report, "[My Thinker's Not Working](#)," was a centerpiece of the workshop, supported by individual sessions offered by [Dr. Seth M. Keller](#) and [Dr. Lucy Esralew](#), both heralding from New Jersey, and [Dr. Matthew P. Janicki](#), Illinois.

Lending a local perspective, participants engaged in dialogue with panelists that included Dr. Lynne Tomasa, [Sonoran University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities](#), University of Arizona; Dr. Jamie Edgin, [CO-PI Down Syndrome Research Group](#), University of Arizona; Cynthia Vargo, Alzheimer's Association, [Desert Southwest Region](#); and [James Kerwin, M.D.](#)

Spotlight on Staff *(continued)*

expanding the [resource directory](#) currently on the Council website and soon to be published as a printed document available to consumers.

Kelley also acted as a liaison to the [Governor's Office on Equal Opportunity](#) working on a partnership that will result in a revised directory of state, county and municipal listings of agencies that provide support to employees seeking information on issues related to Equal Opportunity.

The Council wishes Kelley the best of luck as she pursues what is certain to be an exciting and fruitful career.

PROJECT SPEAK BREAKS NEW GROUND IN SELF-ADVOCACY

Ask George Garcia, Teresa Moore and Juliana Huerena what their passions are in working with developmental disabilities and they'll respond with two words — "Self-Advocacy"! Their shared belief that persons with developmental disabilities should speak with their own voice resulted in the creation of a new project, "Supporting People in Empowerment, Advocacy and Knowledge" (SPEAK!).

The project targets self-advocacy organizations that can benefit from education and support in strengthening themselves to become more effective in representing their interests to consumers, the community and public policy makers. Development of training curriculum, videos, and



a fully accessible website (YAKKIT.org) has been a priority of the trio as they've partnered their individual skills to design unique approaches for the project. Serving Maricopa and Apache counties, SPEAK! has enlisted the support of the [Federated Human Services Co-Op](#), [The Institute on Human Development](#), [Southwest Institute](#), and the [Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council](#) which is funding the program.

The endeavor has even been raised to a national level with SPEAK! making it to the cover of the Self-Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE) Newsletter. What is next for the project? "We'll begin doing more active outreach to self-advocacy programs and hope to begin support and training in the near future" notes Moore. If you'd like more information, visit the www.YAKKIT.org website to view new videos and other materials explaining the project.

IMPORTANT CONSOLIDATION OF AGENCIES

Administration for Community Living

On April 14, 2012, [Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius](#) announced a new organization within the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to be known as the “**Administration for Community Living**” ([ACL](#)). The ACL incorporates the **Administration on Aging**, the **Office on Disability**, and the **Administration on Developmental Disabilities** (ADD) into a single agency with the goal of increasing access to community supports and full participation in all aspects of society, while continuing to focus specific attention and resources on the unique needs of older Americans and people with disabilities. In addition, in order to honor and acknowledge the current landscape and changes in contemporary language, as well as the work done through ADD to support the President’s Committee for People with Intellectual Disabilities, the Administration on Developmental Disabilities will become the “**Administration on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities**” ([AIDD](#)).

LEAP PROJECT JUMPS INTO ACTION IN SUPPORT OF SELF-ADVOCATES

[Pilot Parents of Southern Arizona](#) with funding from the Arizona Developmental Disabilities Planning Council, has recently unveiled a new program available across Arizona. [The Leadership Educational Advocacy Partnership \(LEAP\)](#) was developed in response to requests received by the Council to provide financial support to persons with developmental disabilities and their families, seeking education and training to become more effective self-advocates.



The new LEAP program design allows for existing or aspiring self-advocates to obtain funding to participate in training related to leadership development, public speaking, organization and coalition building, grant writing, effective written and oral communication, collaboration and effective use of the political process. Funding is also provided for attendance at self-advocacy meetings or conferences imparting skills that when applied, can strengthen existing advocacy systems in a measurable way.

Project LEAP is seeking developmentally disabled applicants interested in building their self-advocacy skills. For more information on the program, call (877) 365-7220 or send an [e-mail](#) to leap@pilotparents.org.